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MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert Linhard

Special Assistant to the President for

National Security Affairs

FROM:

DCI Representative

Arms Control Support Group

SUBJECT:

Comments on GRIP Papers

1. Our specific comments on GRIP 21A, 22A, and 23A are noted below. We have modified the monitoring language on GRIP 22A to reflect refinements in our judgments and provided a suggested statement that gives a lean-forward perspective of what might be done in a proactive approach. In addition, I suggest a few short inserts, meant to provide senior officers an understanding of the Soviet concerns behind particular Soviet positions (mobile missiles testing in space, etc.). The inserts could help give direction to other approaches, if a proactive position is considered. Finally, I have some strong comments on the Backfire/SLCM option.

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2. GRIP 21A, page three:

Suggested additional statement to Mobile ICBM Discussion.

The Soviets almost certainly will not give up mobile ICBMs. Only with major concessions on MX/D5 might they even consider such an action. They believe these weapons are necessary to offset the advantages they perceive in US high accuracy, high technology weapons and mobility across the triad. They see the mobile missile ban as an effort to force them to restructure their forces. Further, they recognize that accepting a ban on mobile ICBMs would push them to a sea-based force where the US retains an advantage.

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3. GRIP 21A, page five-six:

SLCMs Options:

Add the following statement on page 6. The Backfire is an intermediate bomber with major theater responsibilities. It has only marginal capability against the US (as do all intermediate bombers). The Backfire could be useful as a throw-away in negotiations.

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The IC unanimously agrees that the Backfire is an intermediate-range bomber. There is no evidence that the Soviets have conducted intercontinental attack training or in-flight refueling for SAF or SNA Backfire units, or have

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